

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-22, 27-36, 38-47, and 49-53 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 32, and 43 are amended, and Claims 6, 17, 23-26, 37, and 48 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

Amendments to the claims find support in the application as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added. This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after final rejection permits entering of amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 15, 23, 24, 32, 33, 35, 43, 44, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Art (AA) in view of U.S. Publication 2005/0270999 to Schiff et al. (hereinafter "Schiff"); Claims 3, 14, 25, 34, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AA in view of Schiff and U.S. Publication 2005/0085249 to Goldstein et al. (hereinafter "Goldstein"); Claims 5, 16, 36, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AA in view of Schiff and U.S. Patent 6,411,662 to Sakoda et al. (hereinafter "Sakoda"); Claims 7, 18, 26, 38, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AA in view of Schiff and U.S. Publication 2003/0139152 to Doi et al. (hereinafter "Doi"); Claims 8-11, 19-22, 27-31, 39-42, and 50-53 were allowed; and Claims 6, 17, 37, and 48 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of Claims 8-11, 19-22, 27-31, 39-42, and 50-53, and the indication of allowability of Claims 6, 17, 37, and 48. In light of that

indication, independent Claims 1, 12, 32, and 43 are amended to recite the allowable features of Claims 6, 17, 37, and 48, respectively, and Claims 6, 17, 23-26, 37, and 48 are accordingly canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-22, 27-36, 38-47, and 49-53 are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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